

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /072 W

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R 061419Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS LONDON 12304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRIDGET BLOOM ARTICLE ON US-UK RHODESIAN

TALKS

FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY BRIDGET BLOOM APPEARED IN THE  
AUGUST 6 EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES ENTITLED "UK  
ADVISES CAUTION ON RHODESIA."

QUOTE: BRITAIN AND THE US DIFFER ON WHETHER THE TIME IS  
RIPE FOR A NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA,  
ALTHOUGH THEY AGREE ON THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE A SPEEDY NE-  
GOTIATED TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN THE TERRITORY.

THIS APPEARS TO BE THE MAIN CONCLUSION RESULTING FROM  
TALKS BETWEEN MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN, PRIME MINISTER, AND  
DR. HENRY KISSINGER, US SECRETARY OF STATE.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT DR. KISSINGER IS KEEN THAT SOME  
NEW INITIATIVE BE MADE ON RHODESIA, BUT THAT MR.  
CALLAGHAN HAS ADVISED CAUTION.

IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS  
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WORRIED THAT ANY INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY DR. KISSINGER

COULD INVOLVE THE UK IN AN ENLARGED AND POLITICALLY UN-WELCOME ROLE.

THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE WOULD TAKE AS ITS STARTING POINT THE STATEMENT MADE BY MR. CALLAGHAN ON MARCH 22. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN TOLD WHITE RHODESIA TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND THE ONLY SOLUTION SANCTIONED BY BRITAIN WOULD BE A TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS.

THIS POLICY IS FULLY ENDORSED IN WASHINGTON. BUT DR. KISSINGER HAS TOLD MR. CALLAGHAN HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE POLICY "FLESHED OUT," PARTICULARLY TO INCLUDE GUARANTEES FOR THE WHITE MINORITY WHEN BLACK RULE WAS ESTABLISHED. DR. KISSINGER HAS SUGGESTED FINANCIAL GUARANTEES COVERING LAND PURCHASE, PROPERTY, PENSIONS AND THE ULTIMATE RIGHT OF SETTLEMENT FOR WHITES OUTSIDE RHODESIA.

HE HAS SUGGESTED THESE COULD BE BACKED BY THE US TREASURY AS WELL AS BY BRITAIN AND POSSIBLY OTHER EUROPEAN AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS.

THE US REASONING SEEMS TO BE THAT WITH FIRM GUARANTEES THE RHODESIAN WHITES COULD BE BROUGHT SPEEDILY TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO MAJORITY RULE.

BUT MR. CALLAGHAN AND HIS ADVISERS' WHILE AGREEING THAT SOME FORM OF GUARANTEES FOR WHITES WILL BE NECESSARY, DO NOT BELIEVE THE TIME IS RIPE FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS.

THE BRITISH VIEW IS THAT WHITE RHODESIA HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF MAJORITY RULE AND THAT UNTIL THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT CRACK IN WHITE MORALE PUBLICATION OF GUARANTEE PROPOSALS COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

THERE ARE ALSO POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL WORRIES ON THE BRITISH SIDE. ANY GUARANTEES WOULD BE BOUND TO BE EXTREMELY COSTLY--FIGURES SUGGESTED VARY BETWEEN 100 MILLION POUNDS AND 500 MILLION POUNDS. THE VERY IDEA OF COMPENSATING WHITES BRINGS A HOSTILE REACTION FROM LABOUR'S LEFT WING.

THERE APPEARS TO BE MORE AGREEMENT ON NAMIBIA (SOUTH WEST AFRICA).

DR. KISSINGER IS BELIEVED TO BE WORKING TOWARDS A UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE ATTENDANCE OF THE MAIN NATIONALIST PARTY, SWAPO, AT AN ENLARGED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE OUTSIDE NAMIBIA ITSELF. END QUOTE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 112  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRIDGET BLOOM ARTICLE ON US-UK RHODESIAN TALKS FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY BRIDGET BLOOM APPEARED IN THE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RH, UK, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES), (BLOOM, BRIDGET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006